



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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For immediate release

- 1. DNR funding helps Iowans' local projects improve water quality in 2006**
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DNR FUNDING HELPS IOWANS' LOCAL PROJECTS IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN 2006

DNR provides \$4 million to 41 local and statewide water quality projects

MEDIA CONTACT: Ubbo Agena at (515) 281-6402.

DES MOINES — In 2006, Iowans worked together to protect and improve the water in their streams and lakes, along with some help from the DNR.

The DNR funded 41 projects that helped address pollution in streams and lakes across the state. These projects are working to reduce the amount of sediment, nutrients, pesticides and bacteria reaching Iowa's waters from "nonpoint" sources. Nonpoint source pollution happens when rainfall or snowmelt washes pollutants from agricultural or urban areas into lakes, rivers and groundwater.

The DNR provided approximately \$4 million to these projects during fiscal year 2006. Many of the projects address problems in streams and lakes included on Iowa's impaired waters list. These projects promote farming practices that reduce the impact agriculture has on Iowa's natural resources. The projects also work to reduce the impact of nonpoint pollution from urban areas, through practices such as stormwater controls and lawn care management.

"Again, we've had a very successful year, and local community involvement is at the heart of that success," said Ubbo Agena, coordinator of the DNR's nonpoint program. "Success depends on local leadership and participation, and Iowans are enthusiastic about working together to improve our lakes and streams."

Projects along northeast Iowa's famed trout streams are just some of the projects finding success. Just a few years ago, Iowa's trout streams were so muddy that only six streams supported a naturally reproducing trout population. Today, that number has jumped to 29.

One of those streams, Spring Falls, is part of the Elk Creek Watershed Project in Delaware County. That project reduced the amount of sediment reaching streams by 13,000 tons per year. That's equal to about 1,400 dump truck loads of soil every year. Before, sediment from fields and eroded streambanks was clouding the water and keeping trout from successfully spawning. Other work in the watershed and in the stream also helped improve trout habitat.

"Our success in improving trout streams takes a lot of work to accomplish, but it's a simple concept," said Akena. "Trout depend on clean water to survive, and water quality depends on how land in the watershed is managed. So, to keep trout thriving, watershed work needs to continue."

Lake of Three Fires in Taylor County is another example of the effect a local watershed project can have. The combination of watershed work and in-lake restoration has resulted in a cleaner lake and better fishery. Before, the lake was consistently cloudy from sediment washing in, resulting in slow fish growth. With the help of the local watershed project, landowners installed conservation farming practices, like building ponds in the watershed that trap sediment before it can reach the lake. In-lake work removed existing sediment and problem common carp from the lake.

"The work in the watershed at Lake of Three Fires is vital to keeping the lake clean. It will help keep sediment out of the lake, protecting the investment we made in renovating the lake," Akena said. "As a result of the local watershed project at Lake of Three Fires, the water is much clearer, the fish population is thriving and park use is up."

Results showing the reduction of pollutants during 2006 from DNR-funded watershed projects will be available in mid-February.

DNR grant funding for nonpoint pollution programs is made available through the Section 319 program of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

MEDIA CONTACT: Jessie Brown at (515) 281-5131.

DES MOINES — The DNR took the following enforcement actions in November and December 2006, unless otherwise noted. The following are only briefs; please contact Jessie Brown of the DNR for more information at (515) 281-5131.

Administrative Orders

Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the order or 60 days to pay the penalty.

Davis, Washington Counties

- Bruce Piper and Piper Motor Company, Inc., of Bloomfield, were ordered to apply for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, pay \$1,650 in delinquent storm water permit fees and to pay a \$10,000 penalty. The order is in regard to storm water permit and illegal burning violations at salvage yards in Bloomfield and Washington. The order has been appealed.

Consent Orders

A consent order is issued in settlement of an administrative order or as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

Black Hawk County

- The Black Hawk County Conservation Board agreed in a consent order to timely submit monthly operating reports and pay a \$6,000 penalty. In lieu of payment of the full penalty, the board may pay \$2,000 to the DNR as a penalty and \$6,000 to the Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District to be used in the Upper Miller Creek Watershed Project as a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). The consent order is in regard to violations of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit at Hickory Hills Park.

Boone County

- Schell Partnership LLC, of Boone, agreed in a consent order to work with the DNR waste tire abatement program for the removal of all waste tires on a site in Boone and pay \$5,000 in cost-share to the program. Schell also agreed to provide a quit claim deed to the City of Boone, transferring any and all interest of Schell Partnership LLC to Boone, and to reimburse Boone for future costs of the removal of solid waste, assessment of the property and remediation of the property. The consent order is in regard to a former salvage yard site in Boone.

Calhoun County

- Albright Farms, Inc., of Lytton, agreed in a consent order to cease the open burning of all trade waste and other solid waste, properly dispose of all solid waste remaining on the property, provide proof of disposal to the DNR and pay a \$2,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to burning tires at a site in Calhoun County.

Carroll County

- James Staiert and Dennis Staiert, dba Staiert Farm Partnership, of Carroll, agreed in a consent order to submit documentation to the DNR of closures of two open cattle feedlots and to pay a \$4,500 penalty. The consent order is in regard to a manure discharge to Brushy Creek at a site in Carroll County.

- Joe Tomka, of Carroll, agreed in a consent order to pay a \$7,000 penalty and to make a number of improvements to his open cattle feedlot. The consent order is in regard to a manure discharge to Brushy Creek at a site in Carroll County.
- Robert Venner, of Carroll, agreed in a consent order to continue to maintain proper manure controls at his open cattle feedlot, ensure that grass buffers are established and pay a \$2,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to a manure discharge to Brushy Creek at a site in Carroll County.
- Joseph Grothe, of Westside, agreed in a consent order to cease the open burning of all trade waste and other solid waste, and to pay a \$500 penalty. The consent order is in regard to open burning of trade waste, remnants of burned tires, unburned tires, clothing, brush and other prohibited materials at a site in Carroll County.

Humboldt County

- Avery Pig Farm, of Humboldt, agreed in a consent order to cease open burning, develop a solid waste management plan and pay a \$1,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to open burning violations at a site in Humboldt County.

Johnson County

- John Kauffman, of Iowa City, agreed in a consent order to maintain earthen manure storage structures in good working order, including following freeboard regulations, and to pay a \$5,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to a manure discharge at a site in Johnson County.

Pottawattamie County

- Robert Barnes, dba Mechanical Systems, Inc., of Omaha, Neb., agreed in a consent order to pay a \$1,500 penalty. The consent order is in regard to air quality violations during a renovation project at a Council Bluffs high school.

Poweshiek County

- Manatt's Inc., of Brooklyn, agreed in a consent order to properly maintain records and comply with air quality permit conditions, construct all permitted units in accordance with issued permits and pay a \$5,000 penalty. Manatt's will pay \$2,000 to the DNR and \$3,000 to the Poweshiek County Conservation Board as a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) to be used for the Jordan Acquisition Project. The consent order is in regard to air quality violations.

Sac County

- The City of Schaller agreed in an amended consent order to establish a schedule to achieve compliance with applicable effluent and water quality standards for the operation of a wastewater disposal system, and to pay a \$1,000 penalty. This consent order amends a May 2006 consent order.

Wapello County

- The Ottumwa-Wapello Solid Waste Commission, of Ottumwa, agreed in a consent order to establish a compliance schedule for the construction of a new waste cell at the Ottumwa-Wapello County Sanitary Landfill. The commission agreed to stipulated penalties if the compliance schedule is not followed.